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LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that on 2 January 1999, two Israeli helicopters hovered for three minutes in the wake of the Libyan vessel Qaryunis that was making for Beirut. The incident took place at coordinates 33 52 N and 34 20 E, 60 miles west of Beirut. This act represents a further violation by Israel of all the precepts and norms of international law relating to the freedom of shipping in the region. It reflects the hostility and deep-rooted malice of that entity.

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya rejects this act of piracy and stresses the need for the United Nations to play its part in maintaining international peace and security by putting a halt to such unwise behaviour, which is in contravention of the principles and norms of international law. At the same time, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya retains its right to defend its sovereignty and interests in accordance with international conventions and the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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